

Glenn Martinez

P3, B12

R-2

P10, B30

R-1

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1) I hear nice things being said about ACT 12 "fixing the problem" ACT 12 is throwing a life preserver to the "commercial horse stable". The City Council has pulled the plug on the horse ownership....the boat is sinking, and you debate what passengers to save. Keep it simple...plug the leak and do not sink the boat.

2) If a private horse owner, commercial stable, therapeutic horsemanship, pau'ua rider, community stables like the old Meadow Gold dairy on North shore....if they are currently paying \$600 via the 1% tax exemption, then when they lose their exemption, their tax will go to \$60,000!!! Not 100% more, but 100 times whatever you are paying now!

3) Many folks planned for their retirement. There are many people and had a dream to retire and have their horse on there own land. So they buy a piece of land that is ZONED AG and where having horse qualifies for AG exemption. Now they are retired and live on a fixed income, and they have their horses. Now the city comes alone and without any debate or notice or participation of horse owners.....raise the taxes 100 times the current rate! You should be compelled to "grandfather in" any current horse owner / operation. The current ZONING law states that if what you are doing is legal before a zoning law is changed, you are grandfathered in forever as long as you continue that activity (without an interruption of one year). And this tax increase is a ZONING issue....as stated by some Council members " we were trying to deal with the "GENTLEMEN FARMER". There are estimated to be less than 60 "Gentlemen Farmers" on Oahu.

4) The Council members speak that we can continue to have horses....it is just that the Clty will not subsidize it any more. So now horse owners are operation on a subsidy"? Are they on welfare? Unfortunately the DPP tends to issue Citation on any land use that is not approved, which triggers default notices on State land leases.

Such as if a farmer parks a boat in their barn, or has a green house outside the 5,000 square foot residential use area. It is currently illegal (according

to DPP) for a farmer to have a green house to grow their own food....outside the 5,000 foot personal use/residential area. Will it be the same for the horses, now that they are "pets" and not livestock? Will we be required to house our horse within the 5,000 sq foot envelope?

5) How can a City Council pass a law that affects 1,000's of people and their property values (how much is my 1,000,000 horse ranch worth when the taxes go up 100 times the current rate?) What is my \$20,000 roping horse worth come September 2nd, when the cost of pasturing it goes up 100 times current rates? How many mothers and fathers will tell their children that the family budget can be stretched to pay 100 times the taxes?

6) Where is the financial study for pro and con of raising the taxes on horses? Where is the Environment assessment for changing the fabric of a community?

7) Keep in mind that a currently a horse owner with a \$200,000 barn (\$1140) currently pays more tax on the barn then on a \$300,000 house (\$1050).

Recommended amendments to Act 44:

Add "horses" to the definition of Livestock

Add a statement that "any current approved LUC use of AG land is sufficient for AG dedication purposes"

AG II land is approved for pasturing.

Animal are not "limited to food" usage.....heard of sheep, wool, eggs, weed eating goats? You do not limit nurseries to raising only food, why animals?